

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

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R 231822Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0628

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

EUCOM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, UK, EI

SUBJECT: TUC GENERAL COUNCIL ON NORTHERN IRELAND;

OTHER MATTERS

REF: LONDON'S 6342

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE TUC GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING ON MAY 22 ISSUED A STATEMENT ON NORTHERN IRELAND WHICH DECLARED THAT "THE CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT STOPPAGES WOULD NOT ONLY IMPOSE HARDSHIP AND SUFFERING BUT WOULD ALSO DAMAGE EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS AND IMPEDE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW FACTORIES." END SUMMARY

2. THE GENERAL COUNCIL "WELCOMED THE FACT THAT THOUSANDS OF WORKERS ARE STILL AT WORK ... AND DEPLORED A SITUATION IN WHICH MEN AND WOMEN ARE PREVENTED FROM GOING

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TO WORK BY THREATS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST THEM AND THEIR

HOMES."

3. THE COUNCIL CONDEMNED THE ULSTER WORKERS' COUNCIL, AND PRAISED THE LEADERSHIP OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND TRADE UNION COMMITTEE AND THE CONFEDERATION OF SHIP-BUILDING AND ENGINEERING UNIONS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO SECURE A RESUMPTION OF NORMAL WORK.

4. AMONG OTHER ACTIONS THE TUC LEADERSHIP DECIDED TO A) SEND A MESSAGE TO THE PORTUGUESE TRADE UNIONS EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE FORMATION OF A UNIFIED DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IN THAT COUNTRY; B) GAVE GENERAL APPROVAL TO THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL TO SET UP A CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION SERVICE AND C) INVITED LUIS FIGUEROA, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE CHILEAN NATIONAL TRADE UNION CENTER TO VISIT BRITAIN (HE IS CURRENTLY IN REFUGE AT THE SWEDISH EMBASSY, SANTIAGO).

5. COMMENT: A LEADING MEMBER OF THE TUC GENERAL COUNCIL, SIR SIDNEY GREENE, INDICATED TO US THAT MURRAY MADE A PURELY PERSONAL DECISION TO GO TO NORTHERN IRELAND, FOLLOWING AN INVITATION FROM THE LEADERSHIP OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND COMMITTEE, 70 PERCENT OF WHOSE MEMBERSHIP IS AFFILIATED BOTH TO UNIONS OF THE BRITISH TUC AND TO THE IRISH CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS. HE VIEWED MURRAY'S ACT AS "COURAGEOUS" BUT HE HESITATED TO SAY WHETHER - HAD MURRAY INFORMED THE GENERAL COUNCIL IN ADVANCE - HE WOULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE GO-AHEAD. IN SUCH AN EVENT, ACCORDING TO SIR SIDNEY, THE GENERAL COUNCIL WOULD HAVE CERTAINLY INSISTED THAT LEN MURRAY "NOT GO ALONE" BUT RATHER WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER TUC LEADERS.

6. SIR SIDNEY AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT THE MISSION WAS DOOMED TO FAILURE IN THE FACE OF THE ULSTER LOYALISTS' ACTIONS WHICH "ARE WRECKING THE COUNTRY."

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## Message Attributes

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